



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1898-03-27

Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, 1898 Mar 27.

John Muir

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Martinez, March 27, 1898.

My dear Johnson.

You are incorrigible. You should go to Alaska. Nothing less cooling than things hyperborean will cure you.

I still look for lots of good work from Pinchot. His differences with Sargent on forest administration I don't much mind, but his giving way like snow in thaw to the sheep owners & political agents of forest robbers is mighty discouraging. He told me last summer that in his opinion sheep in moderate numbers did no harm to Washington & Oregon forests. But if any are allowed all will perish in. Nowhere are the destructive effects of sheep & shepherds more deplorably displayed than in the forests of the Cascades. Thank heaven we have at least one unspoiled reservation in the north. Come, let us go to it, retreat from your editorial battles into the peaceful society of polar bears & the storms of the Arctic highlands. 'Here bring your wounded heart' etc.

Ever yours truly

John Muir

X As to forest administration costly experience indicates that any scheme excluding the military will be a dismal failure however able & faithful the directing experts may be.